

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KEMPLER

Introduced: 5/16/99

Referred: Transportation, State Affairs, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the use of northern design principles and full-cost accounting techniques
2 for publicly funded construction projects in Alaska.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 WHEREAS Alaska is the only state in the United States where most of its land mass
5 is located within arctic and subarctic environmental conditions; and

6 WHEREAS this physical location so far north on our planet creates unique challenges
7 for public infrastructure and economic development; and

8 WHEREAS winter can last as long as eight months on the North Slope and six
9 months in southcentral Alaska with corresponding lengthy periods of cold, ice, snow, and
10 darkness; and

11 WHEREAS lengthy winters create higher demands for energy and other utilities; and

12 WHEREAS many public facilities constructed during the past 25 years were built with
13 minimal consideration of long-term affordability; and

14 WHEREAS public buildings, such as schools, community facilities, and housing
15 projects, throughout Alaska are faced with a significant backlog of deferred maintenance
16 projects; and

1 **WHEREAS** the state and local communities must eventually address the nearly
2 \$1,500,000,000 in deferred maintenance to public buildings; and

3 **WHEREAS** materials and building techniques in Alaska should reflect Alaska's arctic,
4 subarctic, and rainforest regions; and

5 **WHEREAS** future deferred maintenance could be minimized by integrating northern
6 design principles and full-cost accounting techniques into publicly funded construction
7 projects; and

8 **WHEREAS** full-cost accounting is a technique of economic analysis that identifies and
9 makes explicit those costs that are long term, such as operation and maintenance, and those
10 costs that are related, such as the health of individuals; and

11 **WHEREAS** seasonal affective disorder, or "cabin fever," is a well-documented
12 physical condition that can cause depression, irritability, and other mental obstacles to
13 individual productivity; and

14 **WHEREAS** buildings can be sited to maximize access to the sun, increase the
15 occupants' exposure to light, and improve individual health while reducing health care
16 expenditures; and

17 **WHEREAS** other more mature northern communities recognize that long winters
18 require distinct social, physical, and cultural adaptations in order to ensure economic
19 prosperity; and

20 **WHEREAS** there is a need for Alaska to develop a more cohesive regional identity
21 in the design of its communities and in the minds of its people and to clarify its special sense
22 of place in the minds of the international public;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that all federal agencies
24 funding construction projects in Alaska modify their design and procurement policies to create
25 Alaska-specific designs reflecting northern design principles; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that all state
27 agencies responsible for funding construction projects modify their policies to reflect northern
28 design principles; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that federal and
30 state agencies use full-cost accounting techniques as key evaluation criteria for publicly funded
31 construction projects that are to be operated, maintained, or supported by state funds.

1 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Daniel R. Glickman,
2 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Honorable William M. Daley, Secretary
3 of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable William S. Cohen, Secretary of the U.S.
4 Department of Defense; the Honorable Richard W. Riley, Secretary of the U.S. Department
5 of Education; the Honorable Bill Richardson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; the
6 Honorable Donna E. Shalala, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
7 the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
8 Development; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior;
9 the Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General of the United States; the Honorable Alexis M.
10 Herman, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor; the Honorable Rodney E. Slater,
11 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; the Honorable Robert E. Rubin, Secretary
12 of the U.S. Department of the Treasury; the Honorable Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary of the
13 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S.
14 Environmental Protection Agency; Admiral James M. Loy, Commandant of the U.S. Coast
15 Guard; the Honorable William C. Apgar, Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing
16 Commission, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Lieutenant General
17 Russell C. Davis, Chief of the National Guard Bureau of the U.S. Department of the Air Force
18 and the U.S. Department of the Army; the Honorable David J. Barram, Administrator of the
19 U.S. General Services Administration; the Honorable William J. Henderson, Postmaster
20 General of the U.S. Postal Service; Franklin D. Raines, Chair, Federal National Mortgage
21 Association; the commissioners of the departments of the State of Alaska; Stephanie J. Cole,
22 Administrative Director of the Alaska Court System; Mark Hamilton, President of the
23 University of Alaska; Daniel R. Fauske, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director,
24 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; Governor Bill Sheffield, President and Chief Executive
25 Director, Alaska Railroad Corporation; the members of the Board of Regents of the University
26 of Alaska; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
27 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
28 delegation in Congress.